

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SS-20

NSC-07 OIC-04 ACDA-19 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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O R 292325Z MAY 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5969

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 4037

S E C R E T USNATO 2988

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: NATOMIN: RESTRUCTURING OF FORMAT

REF: A) USNATO 2957 B) STATE 110918, C) STATE 109176

BEGIN SUMMARY: LIMITED NAC DISCUSSION OF PROPOSAL FOR A PRIVATE SESSION IN OTTAWA LEFT SEVERAL ISSUES UNRESOLVED. THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED DIFFERED ON WHEN SUCH SESSION MIGHT OCCUR ON THE SCHEDULE. NONE SPOKE AGAINST A PRIVATE SESSION; BUT, OTHER THAN U.S., NONE CONTRADICTED CHAIR'S PROPOSAL THAT THE PRIVATE SESSION MIGHT BEST INCLUDE MINISTERS, AND PERMREPS PLUS POLITICAL DIRECTORS IN THEIR DELEGATION. ACTION: REQUEST GUIDANCE.  
END SUMMARY.

1. AT MAY 29 NAC WITH DEPUTY SYG PANSAL IN CHAIR, PERMREPS CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF FORMAT FOR OTTAWA MINISTERIAL INCLUDING PROPOSAL FOR A SPECIAL OR PRIVATE SESSION OF MINISTERS. (SEE MAY 18 PERMREPS LUNCHEON DISCUSSION THIS SUBJECT, REF A.)

2. PANSAL SAID SYG LUNS IS CONSIDERING ISSUING PO ON OTTAWA FORMAT AND REQUESTS FURTHER VIEWS ABOUT A PRIVATE SESSION, SPECIFICALLY  
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(A) IS ONE WANTED?; (B) IF SO, WHEN?; (C) HOW RESTRICTED SHOULD IT BE?; (D) SHOULD THERE BE AN AGENDA ? WITH RESPECT TO ATTENDANCE, PANSAL SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO MINISTERS AND PERMREPS, A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS HAD SUGGESTED AT LEAST POLITICAL DIRECTORS

SHOULD ATTEND AND SOME FAVORED PERHAPS A FOURTH REPRESENTATIVE, AS NOTETAKER.

3. SPEAKING ON PERSONAL BASIS, AMBASSADOR MENZIES (CANADA) SUGGESTED HE COULD SEE VALUE IN NOT HAVING PRIVATE SESSION AT THE OPENING

OF BUSINESS ON JUNE 18. MENZIES THOUGHT THAT IN VIEW OF PRIVATE DISCUSSION AMONG MINISTERS AT DIMMER THE PREVIOUS EVENING AND OF PUBLIC CEREMONIES OPENING THE MINISTERIAL, THERE WOULD BE A BETTER CADENCE TO EVENTS IF MINISTERS DID NOT GO IMMEDIATELY INTO PRIVATE SESSION.

4. MENZIES THOUGHT GENERAL STATEMENTS, PARTICULARLY A GENERAL STATEMENT BY SECRETARY KISSINGER, WOULD BE A MORE APPROPRIATE NOTE ON WHICH TO BEGIN THE SUBSTANTIVE PROCEEDINGS. HE THOUGHT GENERAL STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS MIGHT BE FOLLOWED BY THE PRIVATE SESSION AND THEN DISCUSSIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS LATER.

5. PANSA INTERJECTED THAT LUNS FAVORS A PRIVATE SESSION COMING RATHER EARLIER IN THE PROCEEDINGS.

6. RUMSFELD REPEATED THE U.S. POSITION AS HE HAD OUTLINED IT IN THE MAY 28 PERMREPS LUNCH DISCUSSION, DRAWING ON REFS B AND C. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT A PRIVATE SESSION AT THE BEGINNING OF PROCEEDINGS ON THE 18TH WOULD REPRESENT DUPLICATION OF THE DINNER DISCUSSIONS THE PREVIOUS EVENING. RUMSFELD REEMPHASIZED THE U.S. FEELING THAT A FLEXIBLE APPROACH AND PROCEDURES WHICH MAKE NONE OF THE MINISTERS UNCOMFORTABLE WOULD BE MOST LIKELY TO LEAD TO FRANK DISCUSSIONS.

6. HARTOGH (NETHERLANDS) WITH SOME SUPPORT FROM DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) OPPOSED MENZIES'S IDEAS ON THE BASIS THAT SPECIFIC DISCUSSIONS ON WHAT THEY REGARDED AS THE MOST IMPORTANT AGENDA ITEMS, ATLANTIC RELATIONS AND CSCE, WOULD LIKELY NOT OCCUR UNTIL THE SECOND DAY.

7. PANSA, MENZIES AND DE STAERCKE RETURNED TO THE IDEA OF SECRETARY  
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KISSINGER LEADING OFF THE SUBSTANTIVE PROCEEDINGS WITH A GENERAL STATEMENT. RUMSFELD REMINDED THE COUNCIL THAT THE SECRETARY DOES NOT PLAN TO MAKE OR CIRCULATE IN ADVANCE A GENERAL STATEMENT. DE STAERCKE SAID HE WAS THINKING MORE IN TERMS OF GENERAL INTRODUCTIONS BY THE SECRETARY TO INDIVIDUAL AGENDA ITEMS.

8. MENZIES RETURNED BRIEFLY TO HIS PERSONAL IDEAS ON FORMAT AND PREDICTED THAT GENERAL STATEMENTS WILL BE MADE BY A NUMBER OF MINISTERS "DESPITE THE AGENDA."

9. PANSA CONCLUDED SAYING LUNS' PO WOULD COME OUT "WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS."

10. COMMENT: IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT LUNS WAS NOT IN THE CHAIR WHEN THE PROBLEM OF MINISTERIAL FORMAT WAS DISCUSSED IN COUNCIL. MISSION WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH SYG IN THE HOPES OF STRENGTHENING HIS KNOWN CONVICTIONS.

11. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENTS GUIDANCE, PARTICULARLY ON POSITION TO TAKE WITH REGARD TO ATTENDANCE AT PRIVATE SESSION, AND ON WHETHER WE CAN BE FLEXIBLE REGARDING WHEN ON THE 18TH PRIVATE SESSION CAN BE HELD.  
RUMSFELD.

SECRET

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 11 JUN 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974ATO02988  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** NATO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740587/abbryvfo.tel  
**Line Count:** 120  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** n/a  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** A) USNATO 2957 B) STATE 110918, C) STATE 109176  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NATOMIN: RESTRUCTURING OF FORMAT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, NATO  
**To:** STATE  
**SECDEF INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS**  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005